

There is no doubt: Bigotry toward the LGBTQ+ community has grave and potentially life-threatening consequences. According to the Trevor Project, in the past year, 45 percent of LGBTQ+ young people seriously considered attempting suicide, including more than half of transgender and non-binary youth. Similarly, 93 percent of transgender and nonbinary youth reported worrying about being denied access to medical care due to State and local laws.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today as the dad of a gay son and a longtime ally of the LGBTQ+ community to say that these radical policies have no place in America and that this Congress must take concrete action.

In February of this year, I was proud to vote to pass the Equality Act, which protects LGBTQ+ people from discrimination in jobs, housing, and public accommodations. While it would not undo every single one of these horrible State policies I have mentioned, it would go a long way to enhance the civil rights of the LGBTQ+ community and send the message that we stand against bigotry and hate.

Unfortunately, the filibuster is holding this bill up in the Senate. One thing is for certain: The filibuster must be abolished to create any viable pathway to send the Equality Act to President Biden's desk. I urge my colleagues on the other side of the Capitol to hear the cries of the LGBTQ+ community members, and particularly trans and nonbinary young people, who need these protections desperately and are counting on your support.

Here in the House, our work is far from done. I am glad we are considering the LGBTQ+ Data Inclusion Act, which improves data collection on sexual orientation and gender identity to provide better resources for the LGBTQ+ community so that we have the data we need to make good law. We must also pass legislation to provide mental health care for LGBTQ+ people, offer hate crimes protections, and uplift and support the dignity of all LGBTQ+ individuals across this Nation.

All of us, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, must stand collectively against this hate and foster inclusion for all. Let's get to work.

FARM BILL IMPACT SERIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to deliver the twelfth installment of my Farm Bill Impact Series: The Second State of Agriculture.

We are at the end of the second quarter, and one of the biggest issues facing agriculture across the board is the cost of things. Farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers are laboring under the skyrocketing input costs while they work hard to keep our country

fed, fueled, and clothed. They deserve workable solutions to this inflation crisis before the situation gets any worse.

The U.S. farm economy crashed in the early to mid-1980s due in part to surging inflation. From 2000 to 2020, the average annual rate of inflation was 2.1 percent, which economists consider a normal rate of inflation that helps drive overall economic growth. Last year, prices increased 7 percent overall throughout 2021, which was the largest December-to-December percentage change since 1981.

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Inflation is a matter of life and death for the American farm. We saw it in the early 1980s, and now we are seeing it again. Farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers are feeling the effects of inflation more acutely than almost anyone else in America.

In agriculture, commodity prices generally rise during periods of inflation, but input costs rise as well. Data collected by USDA shows that over the past three decades, on average, the input costs for U.S. farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers tend to increase more than the rate of inflation and more than the prices that they receive for their products. To make matters worse, USDA estimates that input costs will continue to rise at least 5 to 6 percent throughout 2022.

In the last 12 months, feed, supplies, and repairs are all up 13 percent while ag chemicals, building materials, and machinery are all up 21 percent.

Most shockingly, just during the last 12 months, fuel is up 115 percent, natural gas is up 202 percent, and fertilizer is up 220 percent.

Think about that. This year it is costing farmers more than double what it cost last year to farm their land.

The farm bill contains relief safety net programs like crop insurance and livestock indemnity, but these programs don't account for the rising costs of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, and seed. Agriculture is a business, and business owners can't afford to lose money year after year, which is happening now thanks to skyrocketing inflation. We need to get this situation under control.

A Kansas wheat grower recently said to me:

"Fertilizer is one of the largest expenses on any commercial farming operation. My farm has already used more than 450 tons of fertilizer for this cropping season, which includes nearly 350,000 pounds of UAN, specifically. Even though we cut back on how much we use because of the increased price, it will still cost our farm almost \$70,000 more than last year. Looking forward, we will undoubtedly have to cut back on fertilizer again until prices begin to come down."

Fertilizer cost is a major problem, but the rising cost of everything else is only compounding the issue further. For instance, if you are a Kansas

rancher looking to replace all the fence on your farm with 4-barb, Red Brand wire, last year you would have been quoted \$10,000 per mile. This year, quotes are coming in at around \$20,000 a mile, so it has doubled. Think about that.

From fertilizer to fuel to equipment to fencing, inflation is crushing producers across this country. How can small business owners keep up with this? How can we expect the people who bear the responsibility of feeding, fueling, and clothing the world to shoulder that burden while going broke from doing so?

The people who make sacrifices so that we can eat can't afford to buy gas to drive their kids to school right now. They can't afford to pay their mortgages. American farmers are perfectly capable of producing plentiful, healthy affordable food, but no matter how much they grow and sell, inflation is killing their margins and they are going out of business.

How does the Biden administration respond to this crisis? Well, the President's budget proposal dismantles the stepped-up basis and imposes new capital gains taxes like the farm killer tax on small businesses held in families for 90 years or more. These proposals would destroy thousands of American family farms overnight. House Democrats, for their part, would like to distract the Federal Reserve with social policy while inflation is at a 40-year high.

These ideas are a slap in the face to every American farmer, rancher, and agricultural producer. While this administration burns through money like there is no tomorrow, American producers are working tirelessly to keep America secure despite the effects of inflation on their businesses. We owe them not only a debt of gratitude, but also real solutions to the inflation crisis before it is too late.

SOCIAL SECURITY—A SACRED TRUST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, this global pandemic has impacted every nation in the world. But here in America, as we have seen, with just over a million people who have passed, 750,000 of them are over the age of 65.

Those seniors are also the people hurt hardest by inflation, as are all the individuals who are on a fixed income. Democrats have a plan. We have a plan to address all of Americans' rising expenses that they are experiencing. We have a plan to address them today, tomorrow, and into the future. It is called Social Security.

Social Security is the Nation's number one antipoverty program for the elderly and the number one antipoverty

program for children. And yet, Congress has not taken any action to expand benefits in more than 50 years. Democrats have a plan to expand benefits today, tomorrow, and forever.

The Republicans have a plan also. Their plan is to end Social Security in 5 years. It is time for us to have this debate in front of the American public, not behind closed doors and let people know where their Member stands.

Mr. Speaker, I refer you to this poster behind me. This poster demonstrates that Democrats have a plan to increase Social Security benefits. Republicans have a plan to cut benefits 20 percent across the board.

Democrats have a plan that will ensure that Americans are able to keep pace with inflation and rising costs. The last time Congress did anything with Social Security, a gallon of milk was 71 cents. We all know what the cost of living is today, but inaction is inexcusable.

The Republicans call for 20 separate benefit cuts to Social Security, and most importantly, say we are going to get there by raising the age. For every year you raise the age, that is a 7 percent cut in people's benefits. The idea that people would say, Well, people are living longer so we have to raise their age—imagine that. So you are living longer; the Republicans want you to live on less or work until you die.

The time of reckoning is upon us. President Biden has called Social Security a sacred trust. As you heard Mr. RUIZ say before, the concept of making sure that WEP and GPO is repealed so that teachers and firefighters and policemen can get the benefits they deserve, and also to make sure that nobody who works all their life and pays into a system. These are not entitlements, as they say in their book and in their Republican study plan. These are the benefits that people have paid for out of their pockets; working people, of all races, colors, and creed in this Nation who deserve that sacred trust, that promise that the American people know is theirs in the sacred trust that Social Security represents.

The Republicans have a plan to end Social Security in 5 years. How about you join us and expand Social Security benefits for people who need them in the midst of this pandemic, in the face of what is happening to our seniors.

The time to act is now. We don't need a double-secret probation study like they are advocating in the Senate. We need to do this out in public, with the people, demonstrating what we stand for.

Democrats stand for enhancing benefits and improving the quality of life of our seniors. You stand for cutting their benefits and ending Social Security in 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, we will have a Special Order on this topic later today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their comments to the Chair.

KEEP KIDS FED ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, summer is the hungriest time of year for over 11 million children currently facing food insecurity. That is 11 million children who rely on school meals as their only meal of the day.

The Federal waivers that provide free or reduced-price meals—especially during the prolonged school closures—are set to expire at the end of the month, leaving far too many students without a reliable food source.

Local schools are facing an uphill battle: Four-decade high inflation, skyrocketing costs of food, and supply chain disruptions have made for unique challenges in my district and across the country.

The Keep Kids Fed Act will transition schools—and the families served—back to paid school meal programs without increasing costs to taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a cosponsor to the Keep Kids Fed Act, and I urge Congress to do its part and pass this important legislation.

MY BODY, MY DATA ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACOBS of California. Mr. Speaker, right now, as we meet in this Chamber, the Supreme Court is releasing a new slate of opinions. And like millions of people across the country, I have been waiting with dread for what is coming. As we wait, we are texting, messaging our friends and loved ones, providing support, looking for more information, and it is all taking place on our devices. That is how we live in 2022.

I am determined to make sure that as we continue to fight for our rights, we do so with policies that reflect today's world. That is why I am proud to have introduced the My Body, My Data Act, new legislation to protect our personal reproductive health data. I am proud that Senator HIRONO and Senator WYDEN have introduced a companion bill in the Senate and that we have 43 cosponsors from across the ideological spectrum here in the House.

When the Supreme Court's draft decision on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* leaked, the decision that would undo decades of precedent and overturn the landmark opinion of *Roe v. Wade*, I immediately started hearing from friends and constituents, panicked that their reproductive health data could fall into the wrong hands, panicked that the personal information on their phones, on their computers could be used against them in a post-Roe world where abortion is criminalized and where laws, like the Texas bounty hunter law, give extremists a financial incentive to target vulnerable people.

Shortly after, experts started sounding the alarm that our personal repro-

ductive health data—from search engines to menstruation and pregnancy-tracking apps—would be used to target people if abortion is criminalized. Right now, there are no protections from that happening.

Mr. Speaker, as a young woman, reproductive healthcare is my healthcare. And like tens of millions of Americans, I have used apps to track my period. When the draft decision leaked, I knew we couldn't wait for the final opinion. We couldn't just wait for *Roe* to be overturned so I got to work, because it is unconscionable that our personal reproductive information could be sold to the highest bidder and weaponized against us—and especially against low-income people and people of color, who would be the most impacted if *Roe* is overturned.

To protect access, Congress must codify the right to an abortion, and I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Women's Health Protection Act. Alongside strong protections for abortion access, we need strong privacy protections. That is why I introduced the My Body, My Data Act. Our personal reproductive and sexual health information is our most sensitive and personal data, and it deserves the highest level of privacy protection that the government can provide.

I am proud to say that is what the My Body, My Data Act accomplishes. It is endorsed by Planned Parenthood, NARAL, the Electronic Frontier Foundation, and many others. This bill restricts businesses and nongovernmental organizations from collecting, using, retaining, or disclosing reproductive health information beyond what is strictly necessary to provide a product or service.

The bill provides everyday people with the right to access or delete their personal reproductive health information, if they choose to, and it requires organizations to publish their privacy policies.

Importantly, the My Body, My Data Act includes strong enforcement mechanisms, including a private right of action that allows individuals to bring a lawsuit if their privacy is violated.

With 26 States likely or certain to ban abortion if *Roe* is overturned, this legislation is more urgent than ever. I am proud to lead this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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RED FLAG LAWS RIPE FOR ABUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. CAWTHORN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, our Founders were clear. The Second Amendment was designed as the backbone upon which individual rights and liberties could be secured.

Efforts by the ruling class in our government are aimed at crippling this Nation and corroding our Republic.